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of their immediate families or other relatives who were parents of children born out of wedlock or had other histories of immorality.

All but one girl had been gainfully employed, slightly less than one-third had begun gainful work before reaching 14 years of age, and five-eighths before reaching 16 years. Over half the girls for whom the fact was reported had been employed for a period before they became immoral.

Nearly one-third of the girls, and slightly more than one-third of those 16 to 20 years of age, inclusive, whose occupations were reported, were predominantly employed as waitresses; whereas girls in this age group who were employed as waitresses formed but 3.1 per cent of the total number of girls of the same age employed in Kansas in 1910. The majority of the girls shifted jobs, seldom remaining long in any one job. At least 53 of the 88 girls had no legitimate occupation at the time of arrest.

Twenty-five of the girls were known to have had previous court records; one of them had been brought into court as a dependent child, the others because of delinquency. Six of the girls had been in a correctional institution prior to their commitment to Lansing.

Fifty-six per cent of the girls had been formally married, but in the majority of the cases the marriage had been dissolved prior to commitment. Similarly, more than three-fifths of the women had married before they were 21. The same condition as to early marriage prevailed among the mothers of the girls; over one-half of all, or almost six-sevenths of those for whom the fact was reported, had been married before they were 21.

Forty per cent of the girls and 69 per cent of the women were pregnant at the time of admission or had been so previously. Less than two-thirds of the pregnancies of the girls and only about five-sevenths of the pregnancies of the women resulted in live births. Many of the live-born died at an early age. Comparatively few of the children who survived were being cared for by their mothers at the time of commitment.

(The concluding articles of these studies, Parts IV and V, Some Constitutional Factors in Prostitution, and Conclusions and Recommendations, will appear in the next issue of Public Health Reports.)

DELAY IN SHIPMENT OF MATERIALS USED IN THE PURIFICATION OF WATER SUPPLIES.

Difficulties in transportation have prevented prompt shipment of chlorine, hypochlorite, bauxite, alum, soda ash, copperas, lime, and other materials used in water purification. This has resulted in a very serious menace to life and health, and some epidemics are reported to have been occasioned thereby.

Requests from the State health officers of New York, Michigan, Ohio, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island to the Service for its aid in facilitating shipment were received. Upon representations by the Surgeon General, the Secretary of the Treasury made a request of the Interstate Commerce Commission that priority be given the shipment of such materials. Personal explanation was made by the Surgeon General to the officials of the Interstate Commerce Commission and it was clearly stated that these materials are in an entirely different category from other materials for which priority has been requested, because of their direct relation to the prevention of disease and death. In spite of these facts the Interstate Commerce Commission deems it inadvisable to give general priority to these essentials in public health work, but is willing to act upon requests, giving full particulars, in cases of individual shipments, to use its best efforts to expedite the movement of such shipments.

The following letter from the Director, Bureau of Service, Interstate Commerce Commission, dated June 22, 1920, is self-explanatory:

"The Commission has received your letter of June 17, relative to the urgent need for chemicals used in water purification and for containers for those chemicals.

"The Commission has been apprised of the great need for the various materials named in your letter. Innumerable demands have been made upon this Commission for priorities in the furnishing of cars for transportation of commodities, and if your request were granted, it would necessitate similar action with respect to many others. The result would only be additional confusion.

"The Commission has found the better course to be to act upon individual requests for aid that are found to be meritorious. The suggestion was therefore made to the Secretary of the Treasury in response to a request for priority received from him several days ago, and the suggestion is now made to you, that if a statement be furnished, supplemented from time to time, of shipments of chemicals urgently needed at destination, the Commission will be only too glad to do all it consistently can do to expedite the movement of such shipments."

State health officers and others interested are urged, therefore, to send their requests direct to the Interstate Commerce Commission for each individual shipment, giving full particulars, including the name of the railroad and the shipping and destination points.

The Bureau regrets its inability to secure general priority or some other more satisfactory solution than dealing with individual shipments, but after earnest and energetic effort the procedure outlined above is the best that can be secured.